

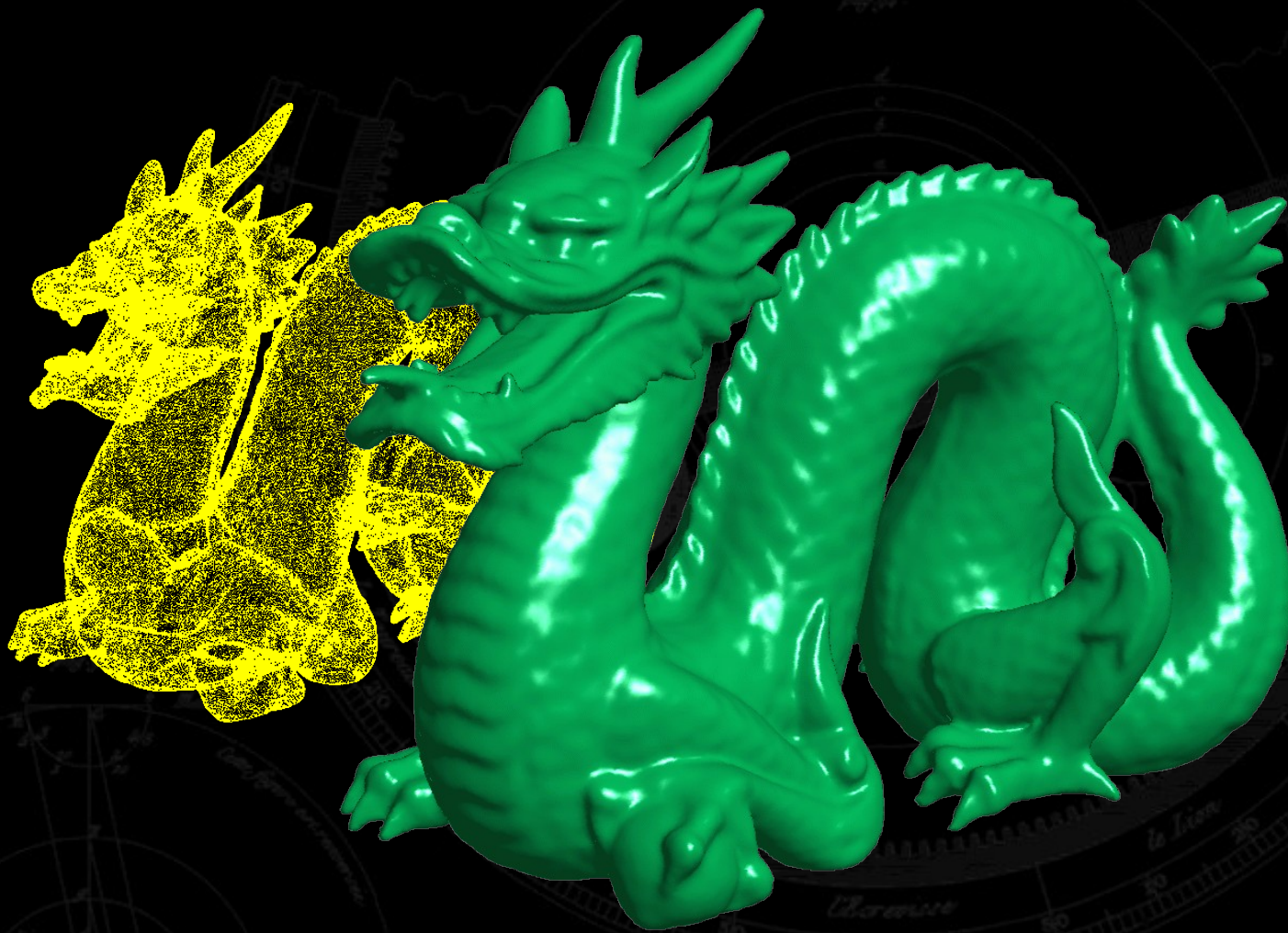
# Reconstruction and Representation of 3D Objects with Radial Basis Functions



J. C. Carr<sup>1,2</sup>, R. K. Beatson<sup>2</sup>, J. B. Cherrie<sup>1,2</sup>, T. J. Mitchell<sup>1,2</sup>,  
W. R. Fright<sup>1</sup>, B. C. McCallum<sup>1</sup> & T. R. Evans<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Applied Research Associates NZ Ltd,

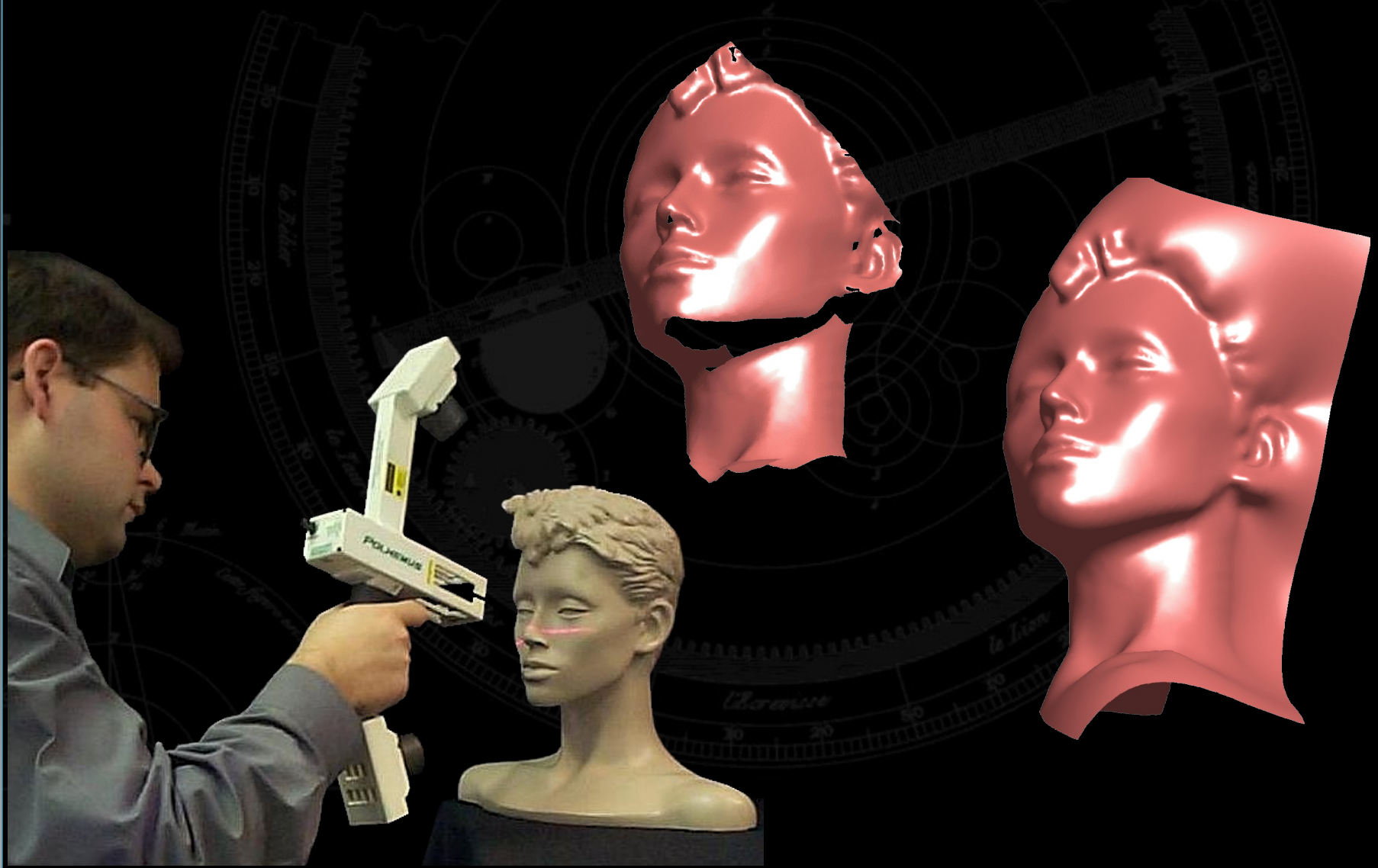
<sup>2</sup>Dept. Mathematics & Statistics, University of Canterbury, NZ.



472,000 point-cloud

Implicit function  $f(x)$   
(32,000 term RBF)

# Laser scanning & mesh repair





# Mesh repair

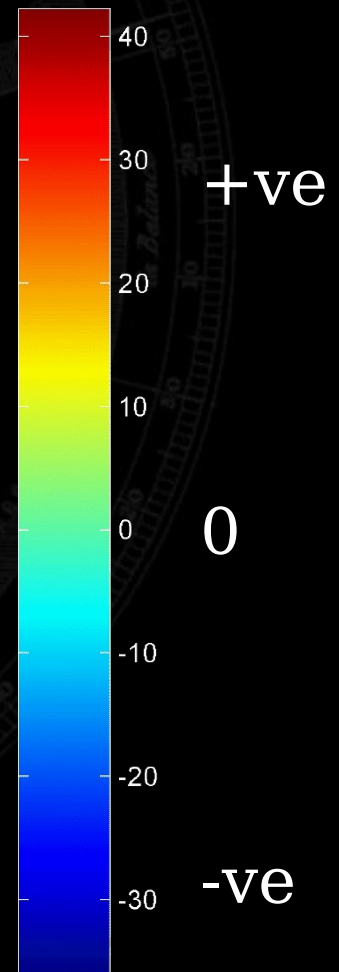
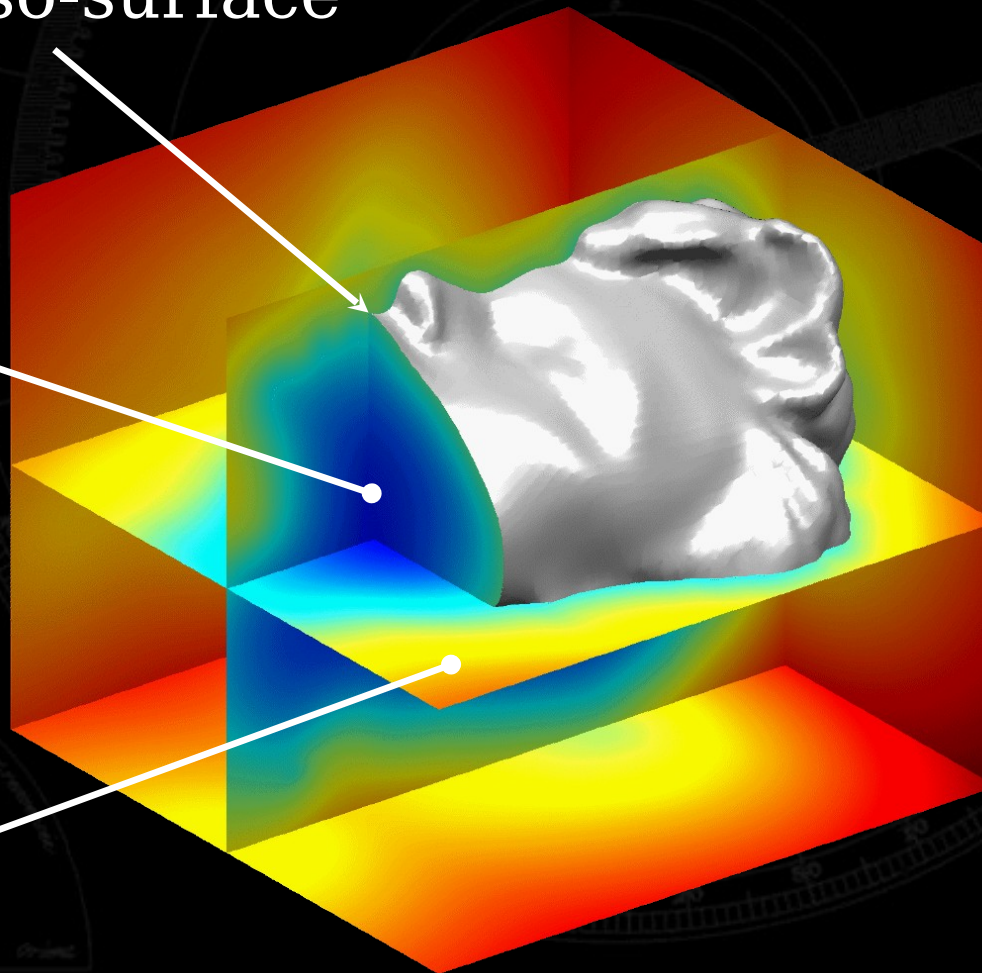


# Implicit surface modeling

$f(x)=0$  iso-surface

$f(x)<0$

$f(x)>0$



# RBF surface modeling

## The problem

To find an interpolant  $s$  such that

$$s(x_i) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \quad (\text{known surface points})$$

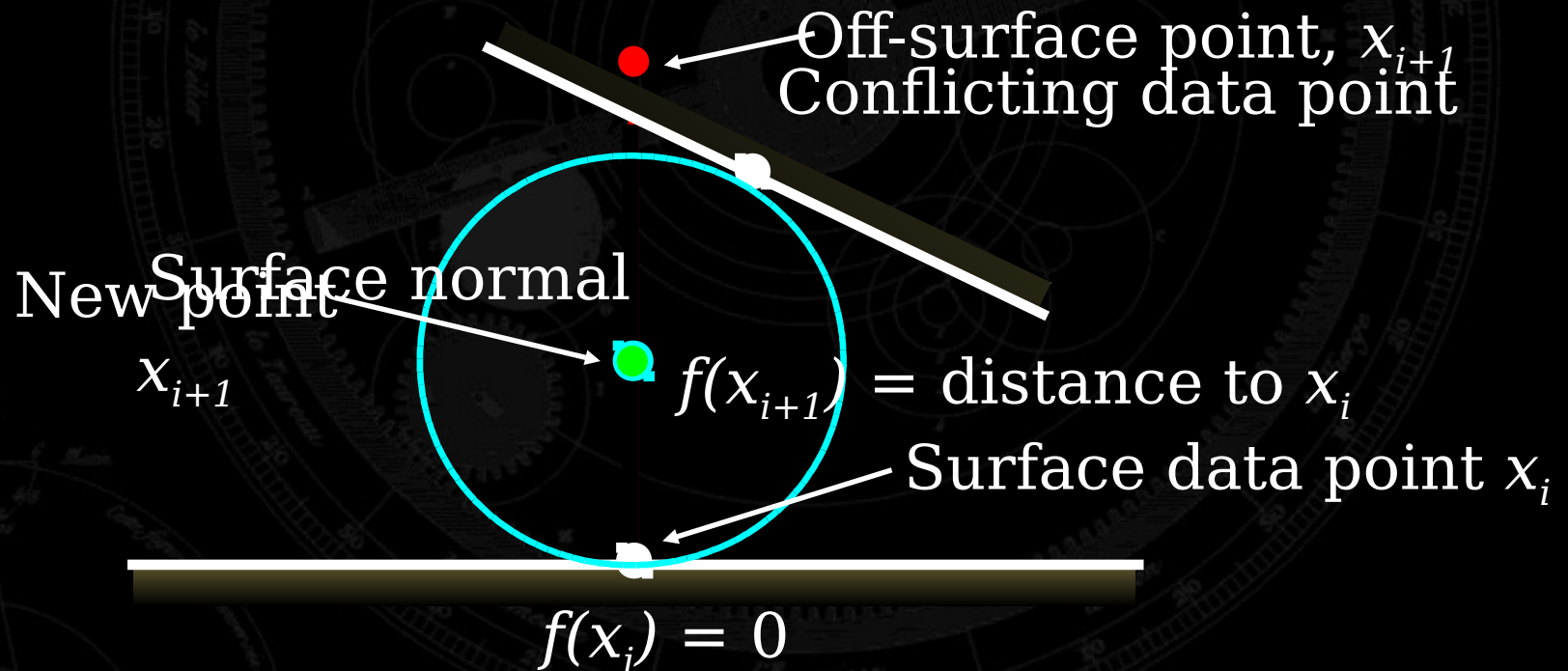
$$s(x_i) = d_i \neq 0, \quad i = n+1, \dots, N \quad (\text{off-surface points})$$

## Our method

- Form a signed-distance distribution
- Interpolate distance field (fit an RBF)
- Iso-surface RBF

# Generating off-surface data

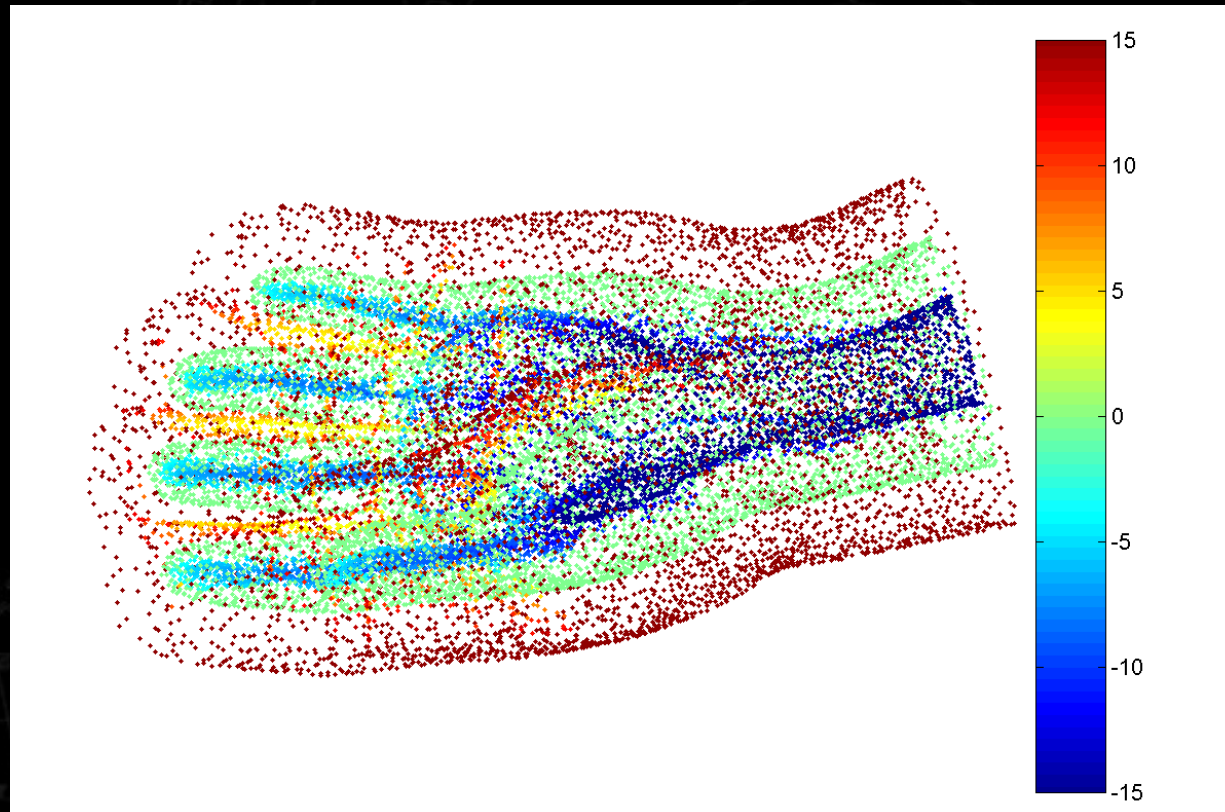
Ensure a consistent distance-to-surface field



- Validate normal lengths



# Forming a signed-distance function



Outward  
normal  
points  
On-surface  
points  
Inward  
normal  
points

- Off-surface points are projected along surface normals



# Minimal energy interpolants

We want to find the *smoothest* function which fits our distance-surface data.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{minimize } & \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left( \frac{\partial^2 s(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x^2} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial^2 s(\mathbf{x})}{\partial y^2} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial^2 s(\mathbf{x})}{\partial z^2} \right)^2 \\ & + 2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 s(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x \partial y} \right)^2 + 2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 s(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x \partial z} \right)^2 + 2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 s(\mathbf{x})}{\partial y \partial z} \right)^2 d\mathbf{x}. \end{aligned}$$

i.e., minimize the 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative

# Thin-plate spline in 3D

The minimizing interpolant has the form :

# Linear polynomial weight

$$s(\mathbf{x}) = p(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i|,$$

How far is  $\mathbf{x}$  from  $\mathbf{x}_i$

# Radial Basis Functions

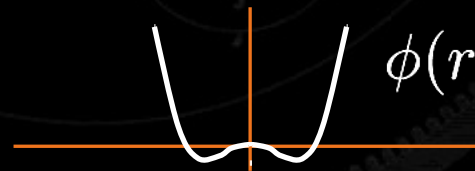
This is a specific example of an RBF

$$s(\mathbf{x}) = p(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i \phi(|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i|),$$

Choices for  $\phi(r) = |r|$  Minimizes 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative in 3D



$$\phi(r) = |r|$$



$$\phi(r) = r^2 \log(r)$$



$$\phi(r) = r^3$$

Minimizes 3<sup>rd</sup> derivative in 3D



# How do we find the weights $\lambda_i$ ?

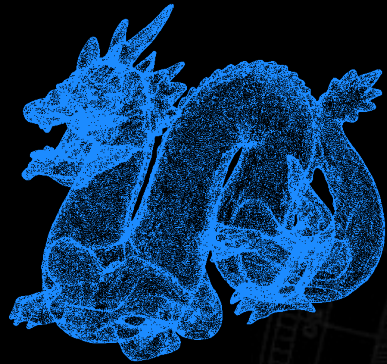
Form & solve the linear system :

$N+4 \times N+4$

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & P \\ P^\top & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrix dependent on known locations of the data points  
known values at  $x_i$

where  $A_{i,j} = \phi(|x_i - x_j|)$ ,  $i, j = 1, \dots, N$ ,  
 $P_{i,j} = p_j(x_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, N$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, \ell$ .



# Fast solution



$N+4 \times N+4$

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & P \\ P^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Direct methods      Fast methods**

---

*storage*

$N(N+1)$

$O(N)$

*flops*

$N^3/6 + O(N^2)$

$O(N \log N)$

E.g. dragon : 3 not possible (N=872,000) 51:00 (PBI 630MHz)

# Fast evaluation

$$s(\mathbf{x}) = p(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i \phi(|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i|)$$

	<b>Direct methods</b>	<b>Fast methods</b>
--	-----------------------	---------------------

*flops per  
evaluation*

$O(N)$

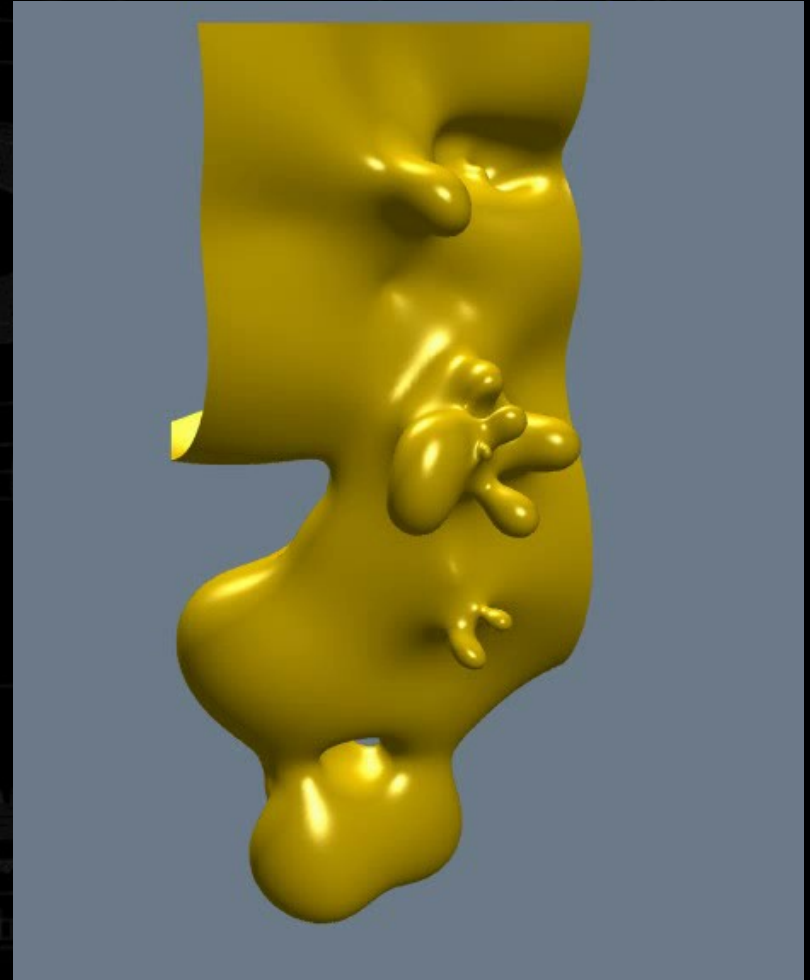
$O(1) +$   
 $O(N \log N)$   
*setup*



# Centre reduction

## Greedy algorithm

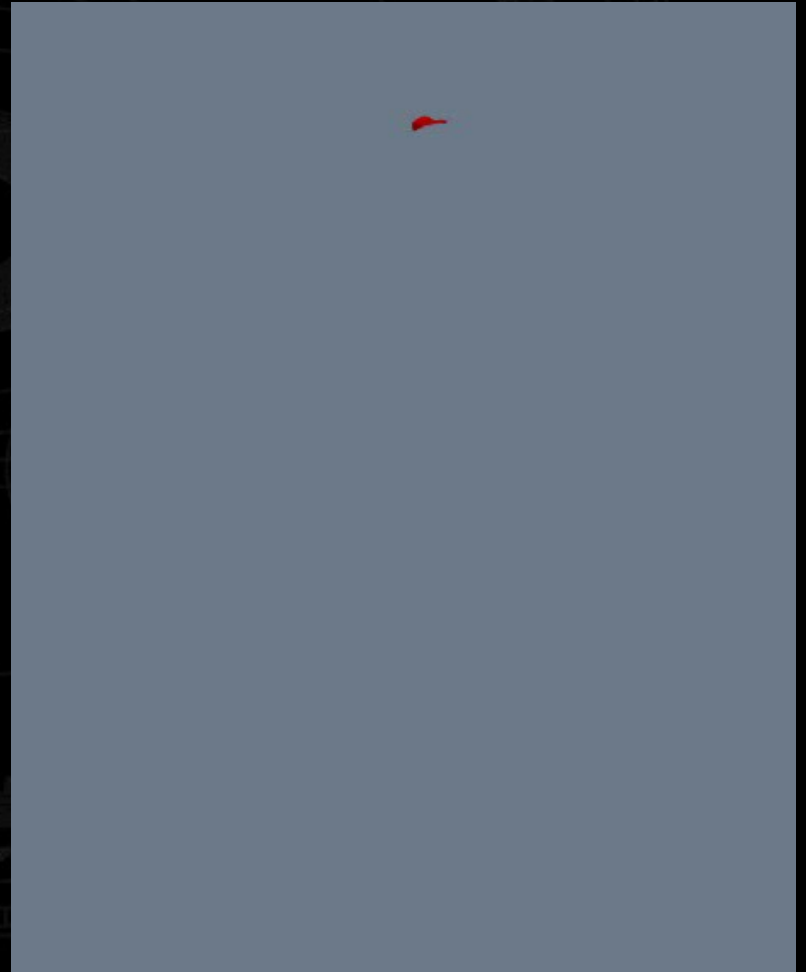
- Fit an RBF to a subset of the  $x_i$
- Evaluate  $\varepsilon_i = f_i - s(x_i)$  at *all* the nodes
- If  $\max|\varepsilon_i| < \varepsilon_{fit\_acc}$  stop
- else add centres where  $\varepsilon_i$  is large
- re-fit RBF



1,086,000 points  $\Rightarrow$  82,000 centres

# Iso-surfacing

- Surface-following minimizes RBF evaluations
- RBF centres are used as seeds
- The RBF gradient assists seeding and mesh optimisation



# Results

## Buddha

Original mesh	543 652 points	19.6MB
	1 086 798 triangles	

RBF representation	80 518 centres	1.6MB
	80 522 coefficients	

New mesh	96 766 points	3.5MB
	193 604 triangles	

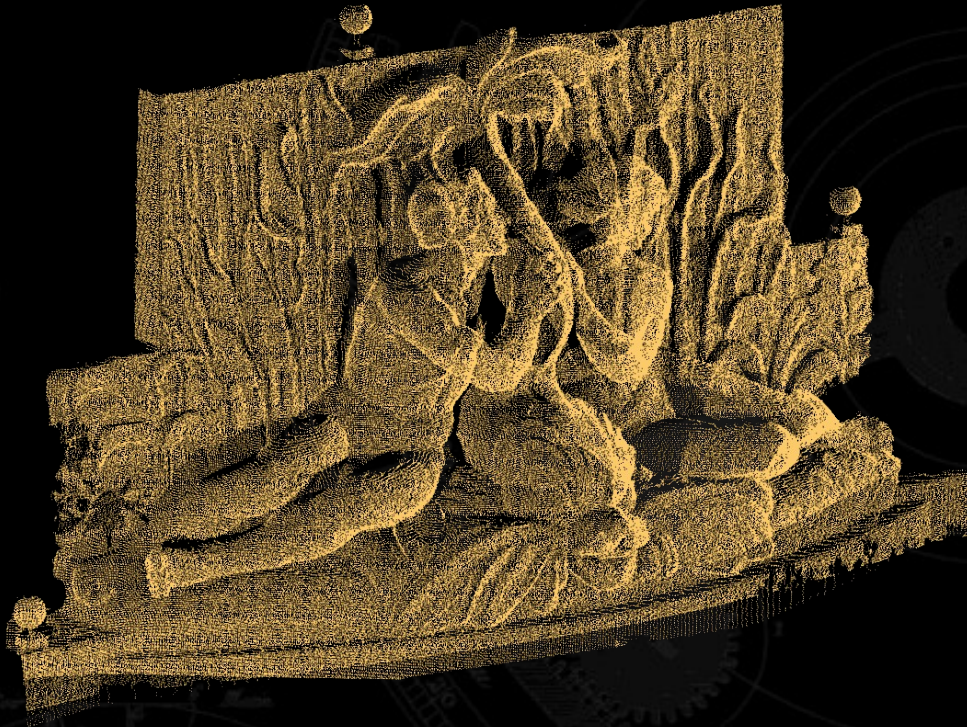
# interpolation points: 1,086,194

Fit time: 4:03:26      Eval time: 0:04:07      (500MHz PIII)



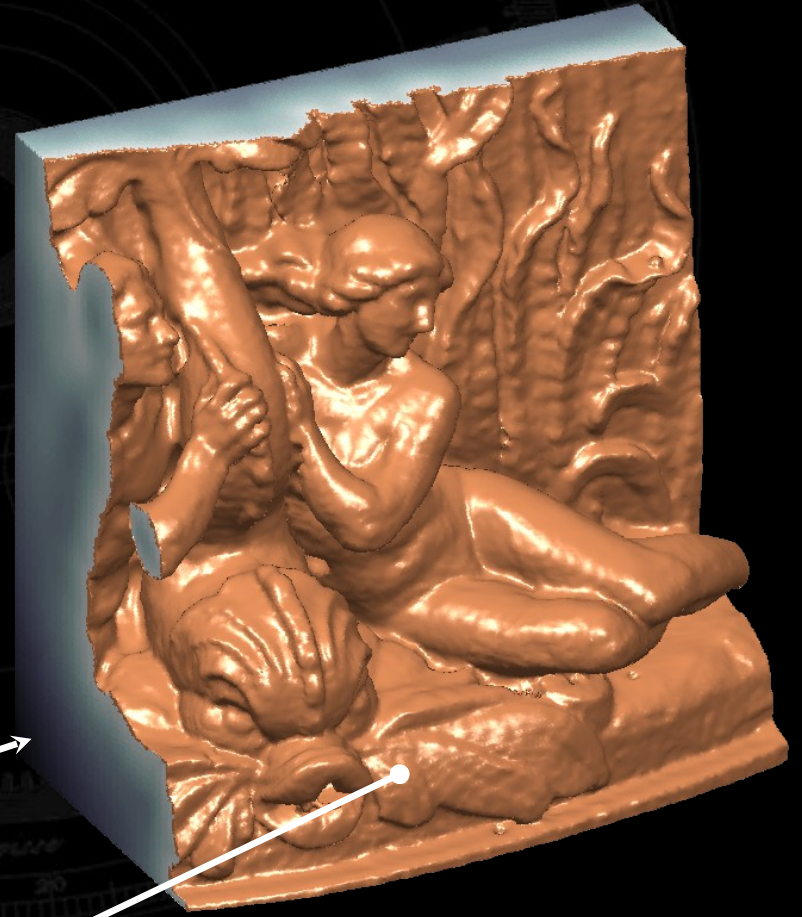


# Interpolating noisy data



350,000 point LIDAR  
scan

RBF distance  
field



Zero-valued iso-  
surface

# Spline smoothing

Look for the function  $s^*$  that minimizes

$$\rho \|s\|^2 + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (s(\mathbf{x}_i) - f_i)^2$$

2<sup>nd</sup> derivative

Closeness of fit

$s^*$  is also an RBF with the coefficients given by

$$\|s\|^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left( \frac{A}{P^T \partial x^2} + \frac{8N\pi\rho I}{P^T \partial x^2} \right)^2 + \frac{P}{0} \left( \frac{\partial^2 s(\mathbf{x})}{\partial y^2} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial^2 f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial z^2} \right)^2 + 2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 s(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x \partial y} \right)^2 + 2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 s(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x \partial z} \right)^2 + 2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 s(\mathbf{x})}{\partial y \partial z} \right)^2 d\mathbf{x}.$$

# Spline smoothing

Look for the function  $s^*$  that minimizes

$$\rho \|s\|^2 + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (s(x_i) - f_i)^2$$

Rearranging :

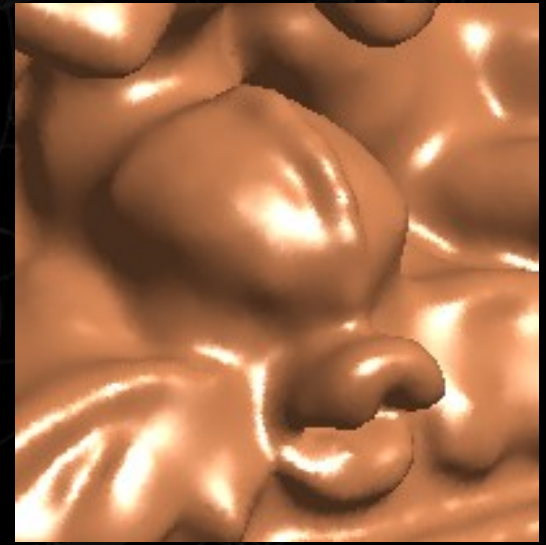
$$\begin{pmatrix} A & P \\ P^\top & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f - 8N\pi\rho\lambda \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Deviation at  
each data point

$\rho$  determines  
amount of  
smoothing



# Spline smoothing with RBFs



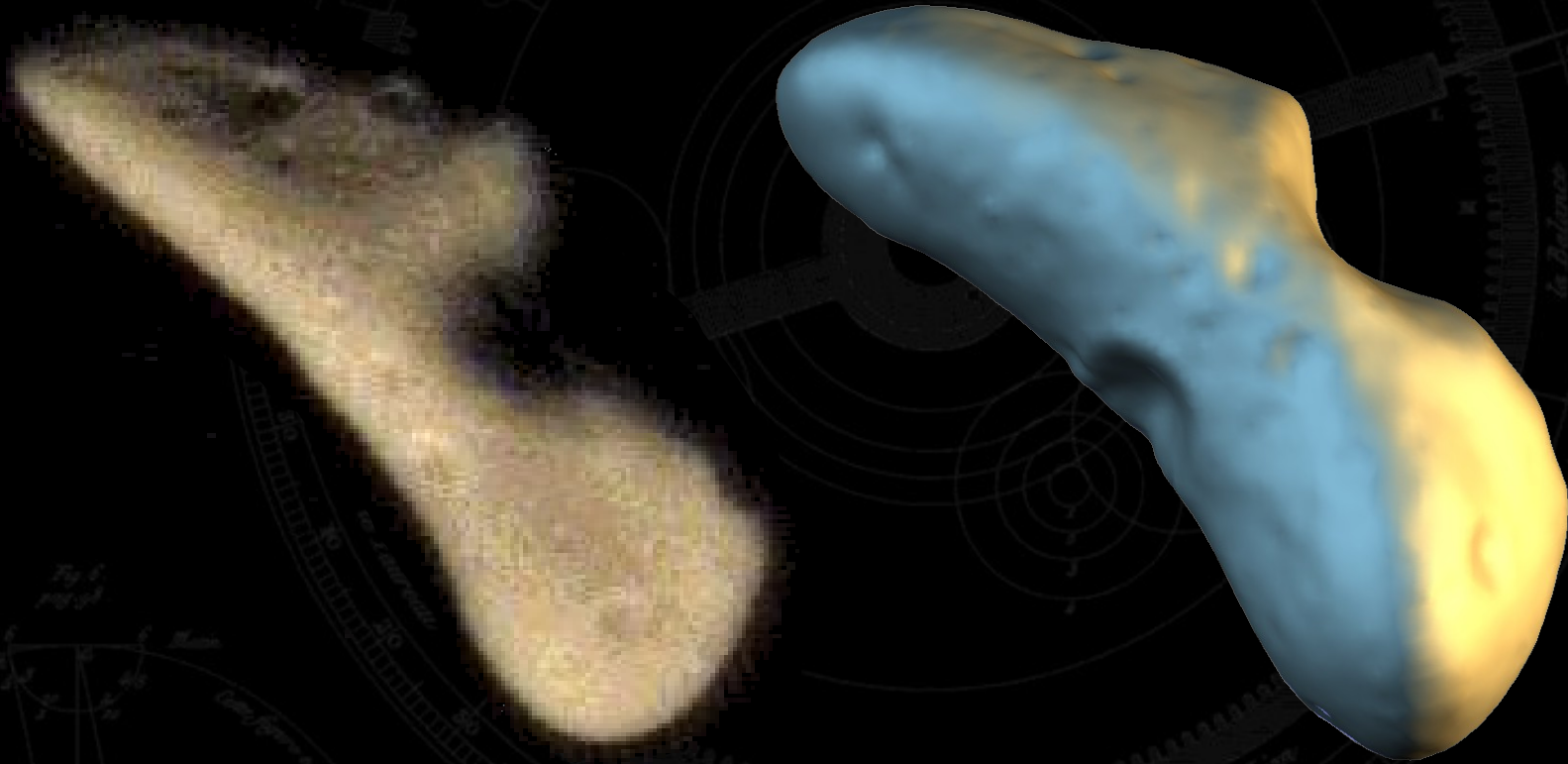
Exact fit  
( $\rho = 0$ )

Increasing  $\rho$

Increasing smoothness



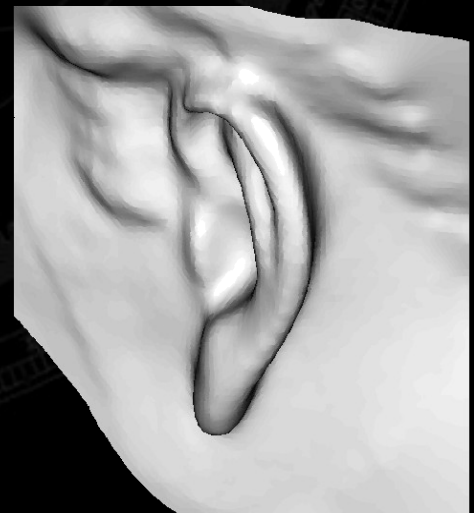
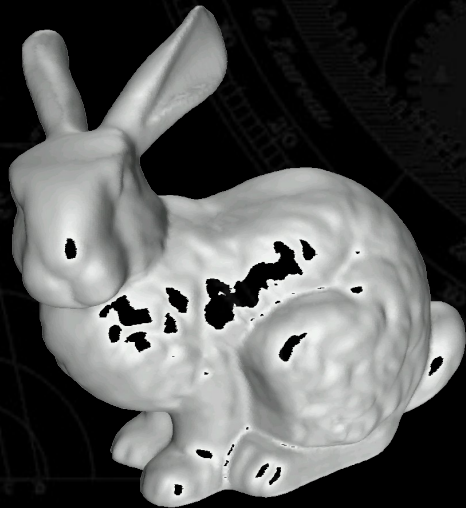
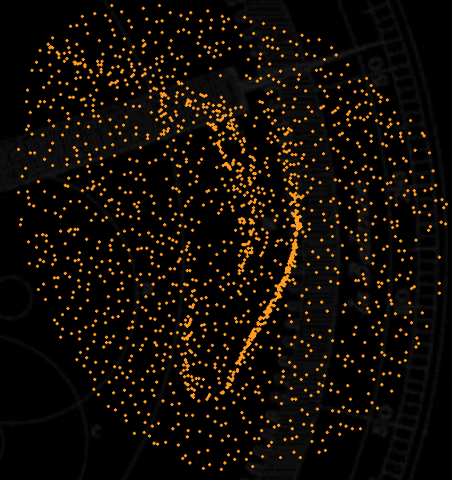
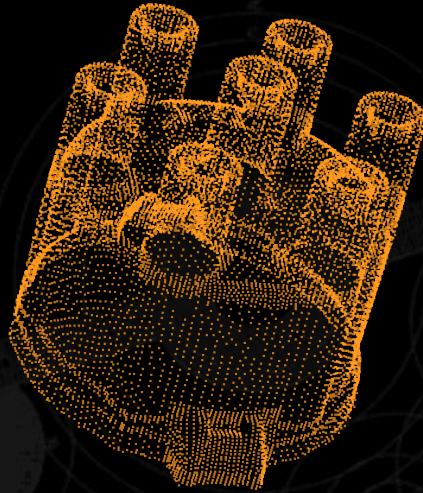
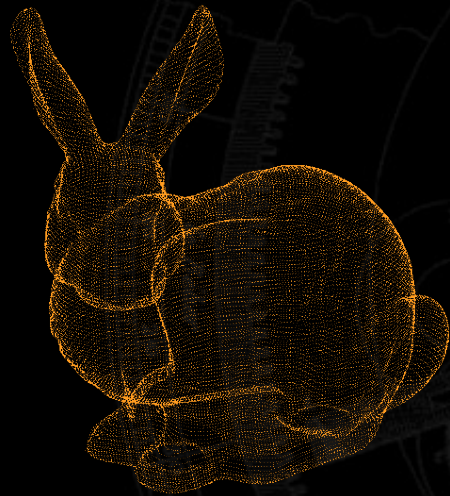
# Reconstructing Eros



Interpolating irregular, noisy, non-uniformly  
sampled range data from NASA's NEAR  
spacecraft

<http://near.jhuapl.edu/iod/20000728/index.html>

# Surfacing examples



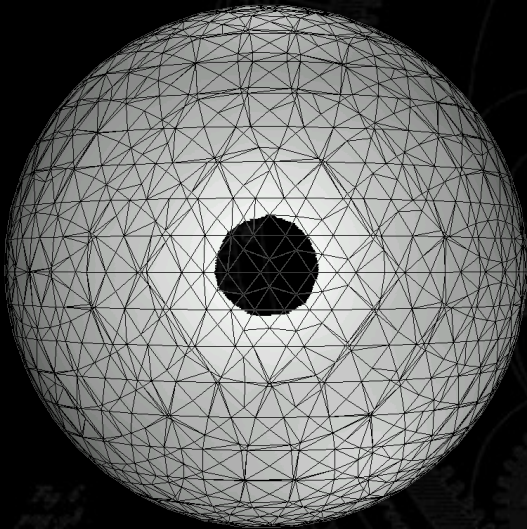
# Scapular



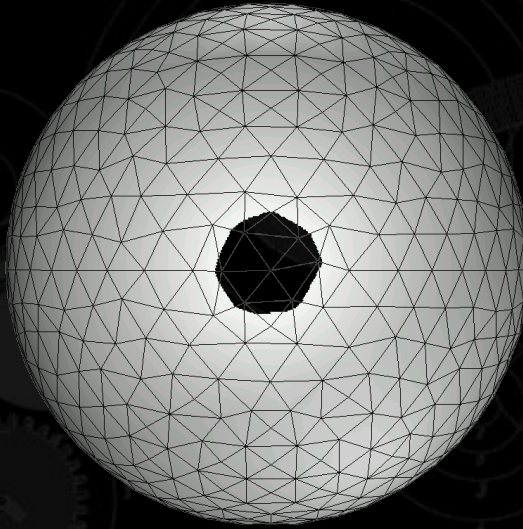
- Evaluate mesh at the desired resolution



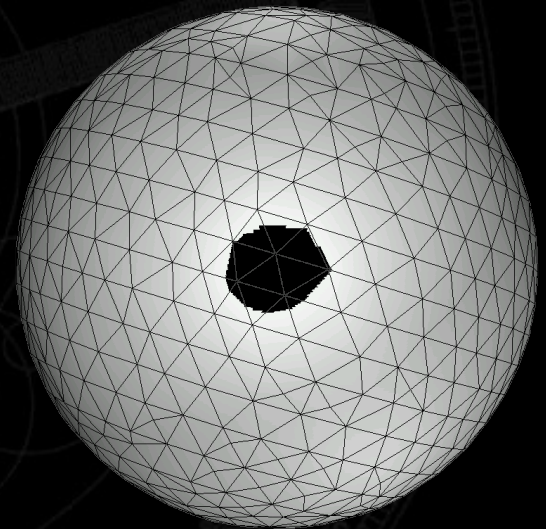
# Mesh optimisation



***Grid-  
constrained  
mesh***



**Optimised mesh**

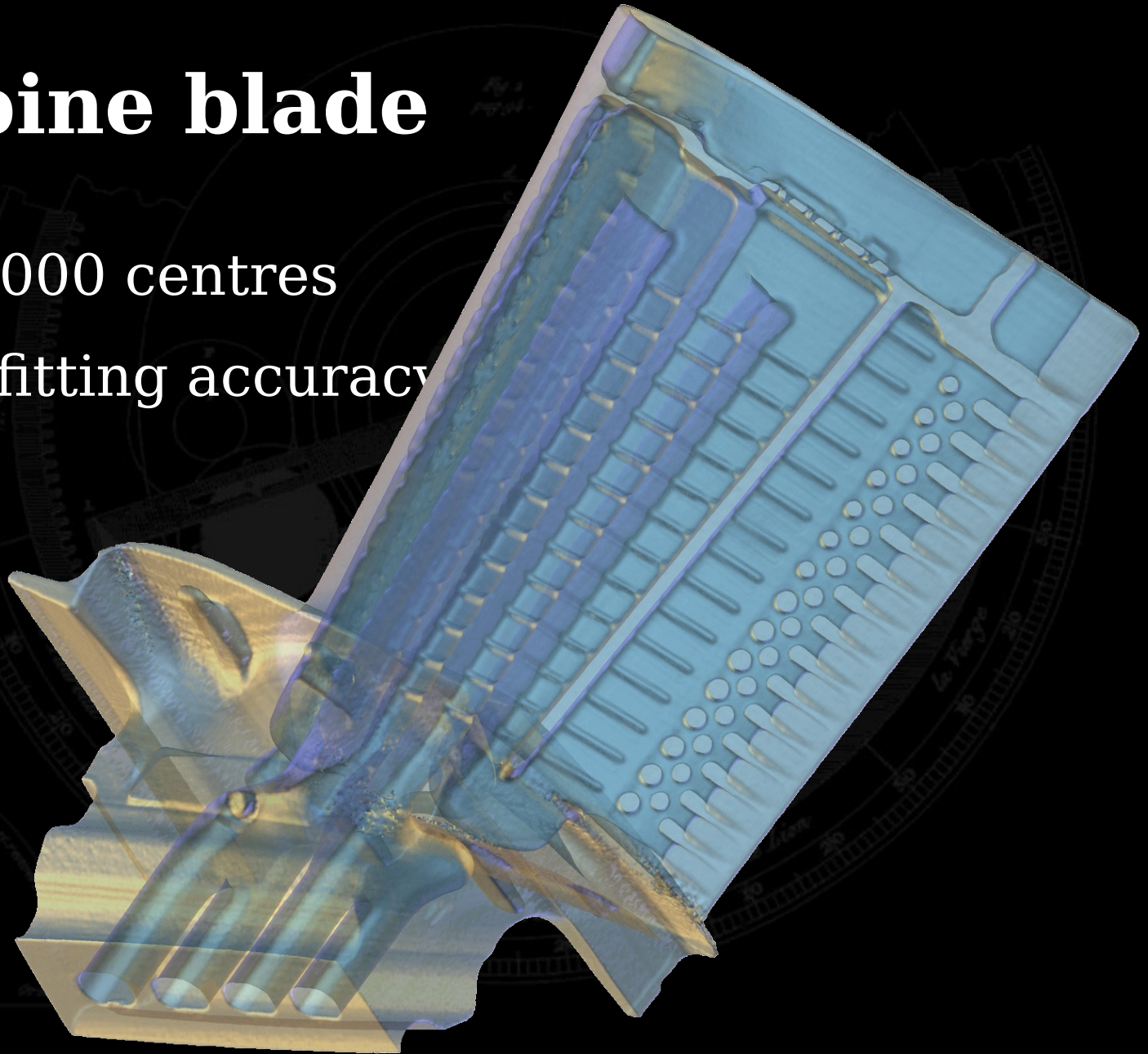


**Mesh vertices  
constrained to lie on  
parallel planes**



# Turbine blade

- 594,000 centres
- $10^{-4}$  fitting accuracy

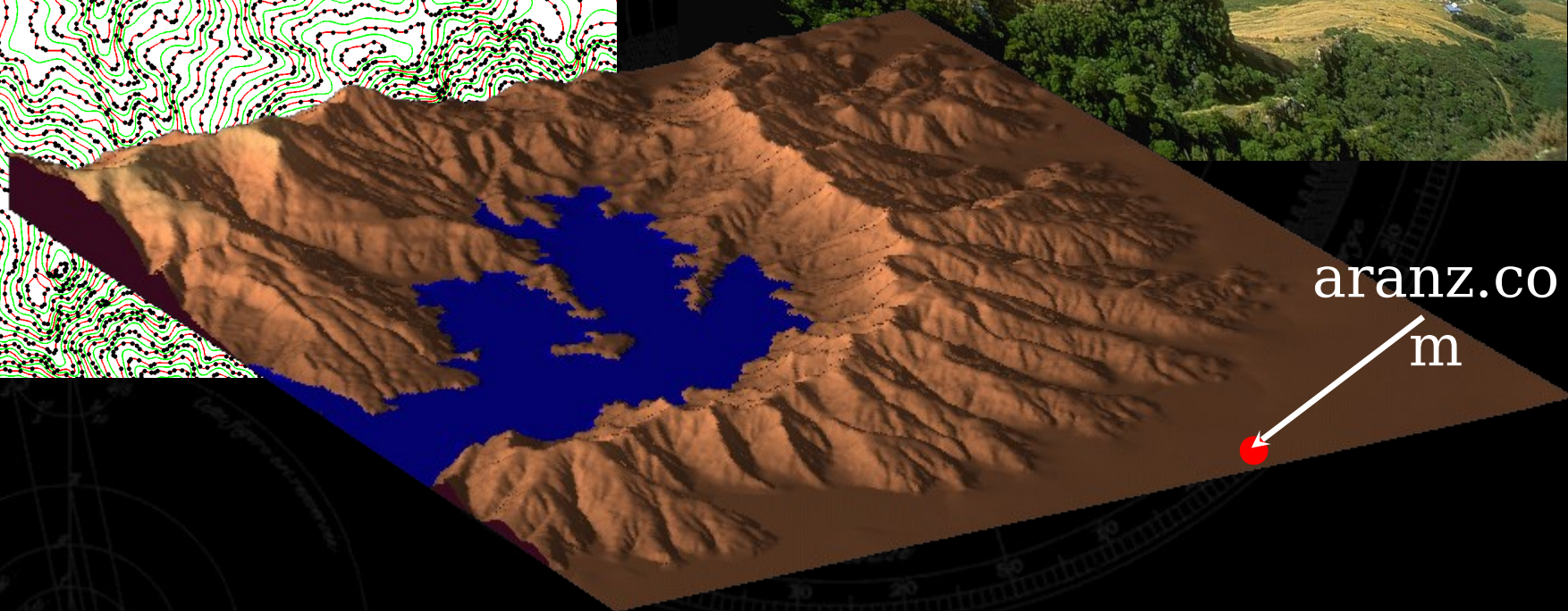
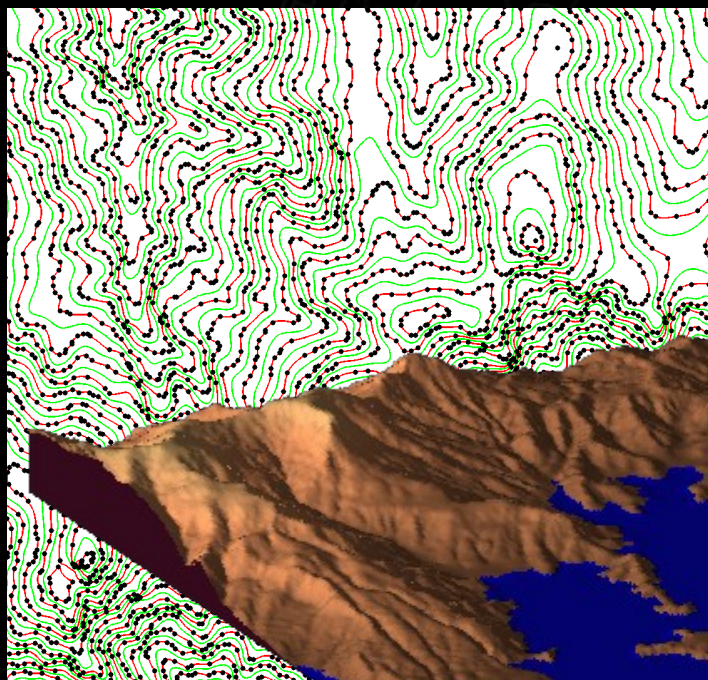


# Conclusions

- A functional representation of a complex object is possible i.e.  $f(x)$
- Smooth RBF interpolation is ideal for mesh repair
- The smoothest surface, most consistent with the input data, is produced
- Gradients are determined analytically, i.e.  $\nabla f(x)$
- Fast evaluation is essential

Email : [j.carr@aranz.com](mailto:j.carr@aranz.com)





RBF model of Christchurch & Lyttelton  $\phi(r) = r^2 \log(r)$



# Fast multipole methods



# Fast multipole methods

## 1. Hierarchical partitioning of space

Level

$N$  data points considers the  $i^{\text{th}}$  data point

0



1



2



3



4



# Fast multipole methods

2. Apply the far-field contributions with direct source  
Consider evaluating  $s(x)$  inside panel A

Level

Evaluation cost :  $O(\log N) + \text{setup}$

0



1

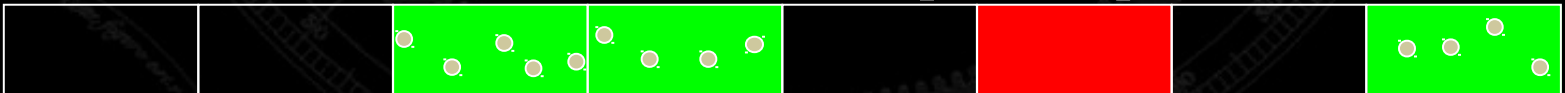


2



grandparent panel

3



parent panel

4



A

 Compute directly

 Far-field contributions

# Fast multipole methods

Computing the interaction of a set of points with a set of points is  $O(N^2)$ . Fast multipole methods reduce this to  $O(N \log N)$ .

Level

Evaluation cost :  $O(1) + \text{setup}$

0



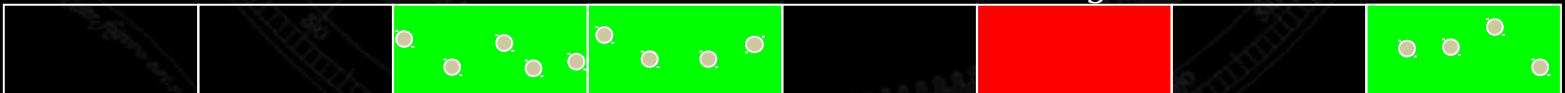
1



2



3

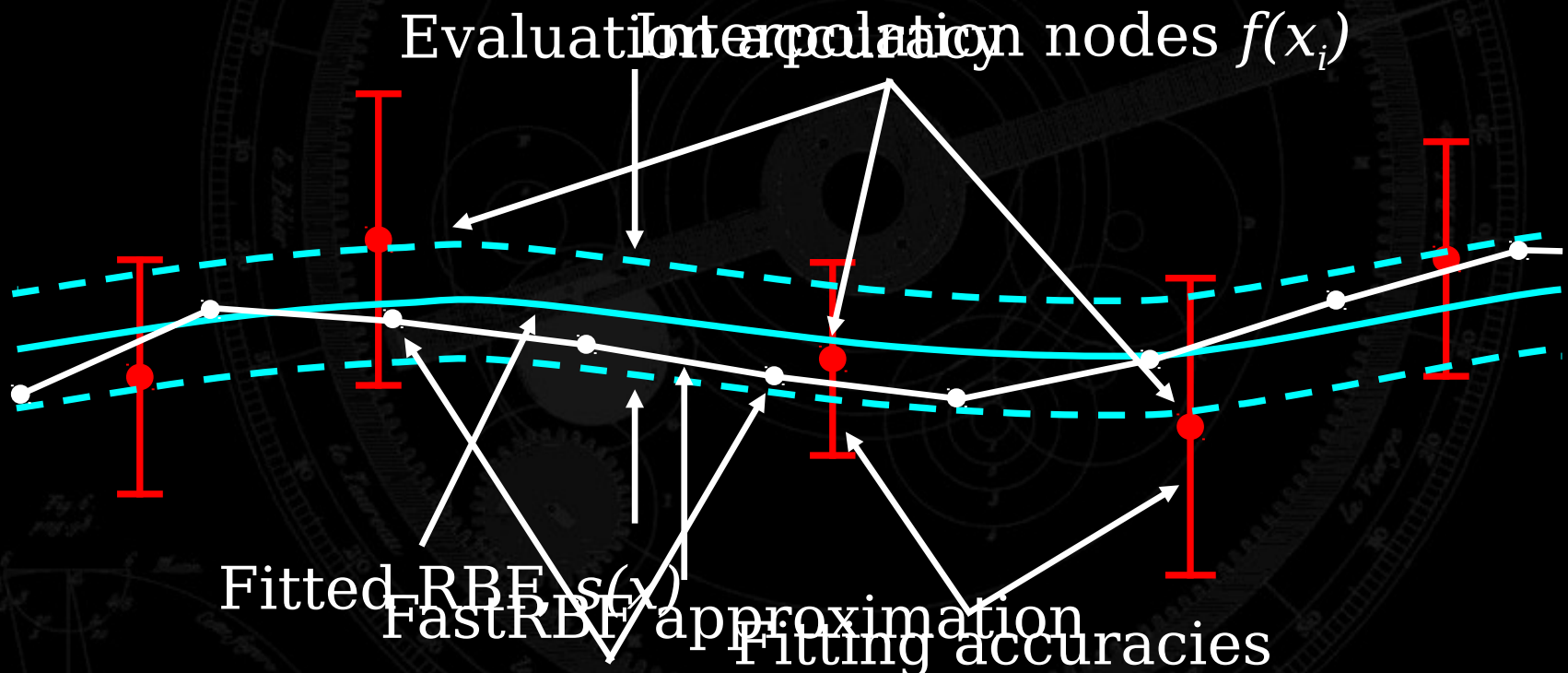


4



$P(x)$  Taylor series approximation

# Fitting & evaluation parameters

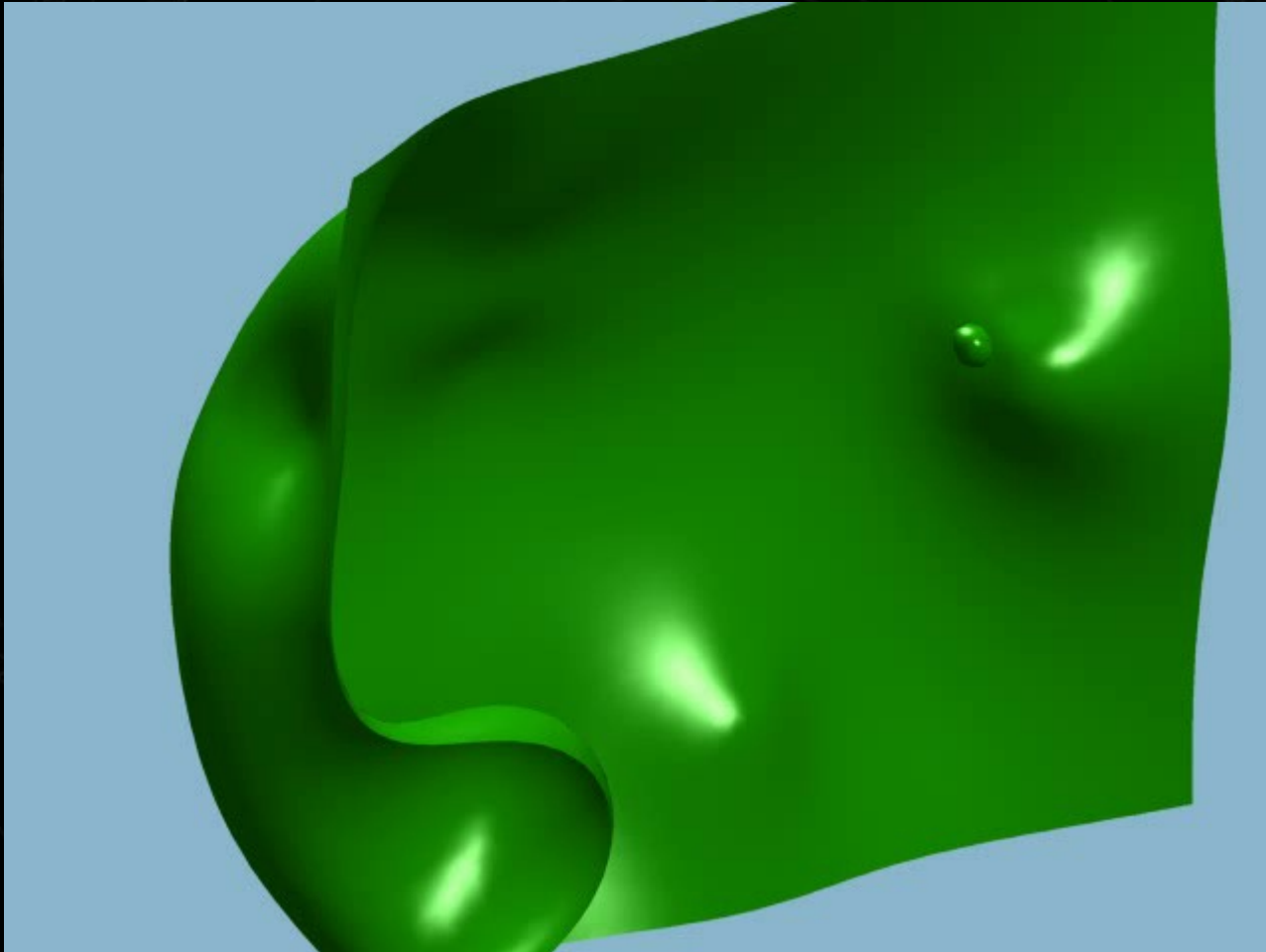


- Evaluation accuracy  $\ll$  fit accuracy

**1D interpolation example**

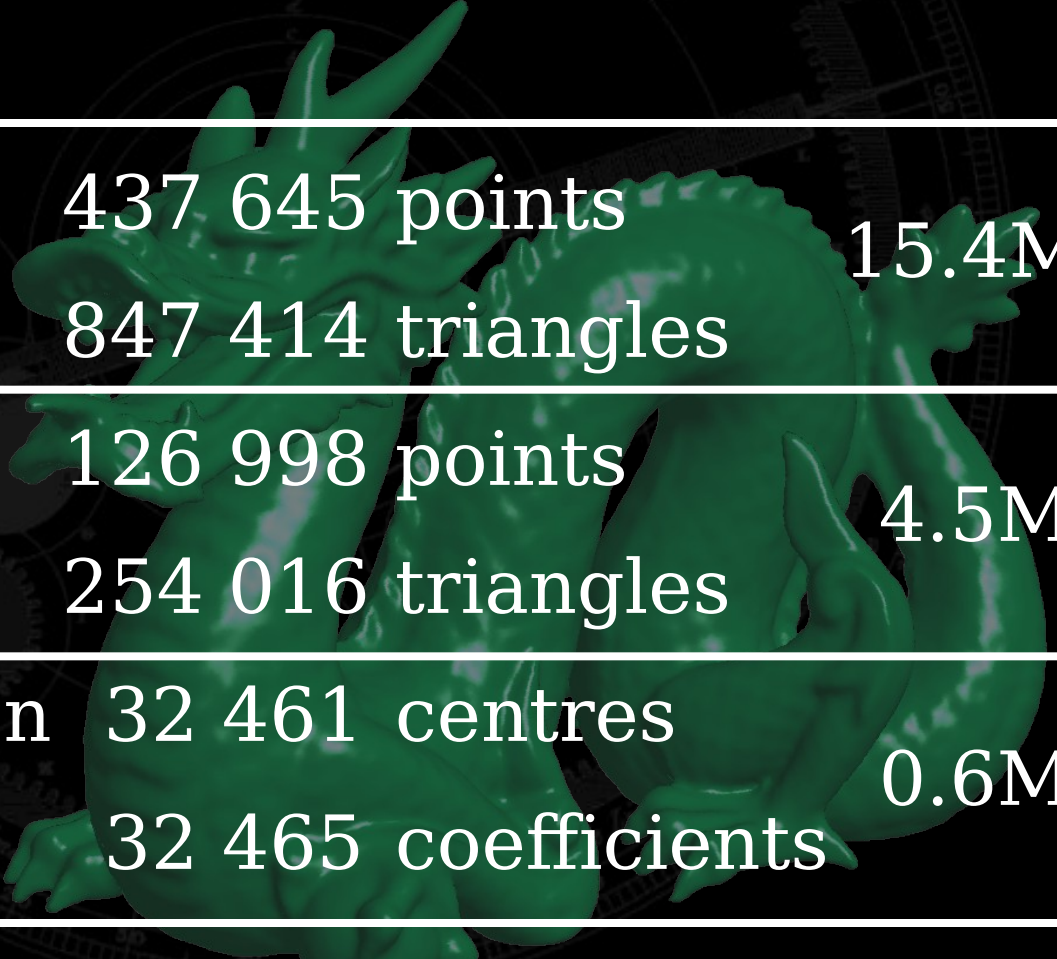


# RBF fitting



# Results

## Dragon



Original mesh	437 645 points	15.4MB
	847 414 triangles	
New mesh	126 998 points	4.5MB
	254 016 triangles	
RBF representation	32 461 centres	0.6MB
	32 465 coefficients	

# interpolation points: 872,487   Fit time: 2:51:09  
Eval time: 0:04:40

# Acknowledgements

- Hand, statue & mannequinn data courtesy of Polhemus corporation
- LIDAR data courtesy of Allen Instruments & Supplies, 1474 Theresa St, Carpinteria, CA93013, USA
- Eros data courtesy NASA & Cornell university
- Buddha & dragon data courtesy of Stanford Computer Graphics laboratory
- All other data courtesy Georgia Institute of Technology